

Mancos, Colorado. Jack Ott has devoted the majority of his life to preserving our nation's forests. His enthusiasm spirals throughout the community, as he encourages others to respect their environment. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Jack's tremendous service to the Mancos community.

Jack has recently been recognized by the San Juan Chapter of the Society of American Foresters for his fifty year membership in the organization. After graduating from Michigan State University in 1952, he joined the U.S. Forest Service, spending thirty years in the Rocky Mountain Region. Jack began his service to this nation in the Korean War and today is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and National Rifle Association. He is also an active member of the community, serving as the Treasurer of the Mancos Masonic Lodge and a dynamic member of the Mancos United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Ott is a dedicated individual who uses his talent to enrich the lives of members of his Mancos community. Jack has demonstrated a love for forestry that resonates in his compassionate and selfless service to his town. Jack's enthusiasm and commitment to this nation certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE NURSES OF MONTGOMERY HOSPITAL ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the hard-working nurses of Montgomery Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania in anticipation of the upcoming National Nurses Week from May 6–12, 2004.

Though National Nurses Week gives us an opportunity to celebrate all nurses in this country, particularly those serving in the armed forces, I want to specially recognize the nursing staff and nursing leadership of Montgomery Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania. Their tireless commitment to providing quality care is exemplary and I want to say "thank you" on behalf of the people of the Norristown area and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Outside of Philadelphia, Montgomery Hospital is the oldest general hospital in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The original hospital was located in a vacant school at Powell and Basin Streets in Norristown. Originally named "Charity Hospital of Montgomery County," the Hospital opened its doors on January 1, 1891 with a staff of just six. Today, Montgomery Hospital Medical Center occupies two city blocks in the heart of Norristown. It is Norristown's largest private sector employer with over 1,300 individuals on staff. The entire staff at Montgomery Hospital, including its nurses, remains committed to providing the highest quality of care to all their patients.

As Montgomery Hospital has changed, so has the nursing profession. Nurses today require more and more training and education. Their jobs are also much more specialized. In fact, 49 states now allow advanced practice

nurses to prescribe medications. In the future, as our healthcare systems continue to evolve, I am certain the nursing profession will as well. One thing is clear, nurses will play a vital role in the future of healthcare in America.

Today, there are nearly 2.7 million registered nurses in the United States. These nurses are working every day to save lives and maintain the health of millions of Americans. As a profession, they are one of the most respected and admired for their hard work and commitment to their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, National Nurses Week is an appropriate way to honor the work of all our nation's nurses and I urge my colleagues to join me in this regard. And to the dedicated nurses at Montgomery Hospital, I say thank you for your efforts.

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY 2004

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge today, April 22, as Earth Day 2004. It is a day for Americans to recognize our responsibility to protect our environment and enhance our quality of life. Our air, water, land and other natural resources sustain human life, and it is our duty as stewards of this planet to safeguard these resources for us and for future generations.

With the growth of eco-tourism, environmental protection and economic growth can both advance together. Protecting sensitive land not only preserves our natural heritage but enhances the value of surrounding areas and our quality of life. In South Texas I have helped protect numerous natural resources that grace this region. I secured funding to expand the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Texas World Birding Center in Roma, Texas, and I continue to lead and support efforts to complete the Missions Trail in San Antonio and the Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail. In addition, I have supported legislation such as the Yellowstone Protection Act and the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act to protect our precious national lands. Protecting these valuable resources is important, contributes to a healthy ecosystem, and provides enjoyment and recreation to hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

I encourage every Texan to take a moment today to appreciate the natural beauty of our state and also to consider taking actions that can decrease pollution. Simple actions such as recycling, car-pooling, and turning off the television when no one is watching can contribute to large pollution reductions. Working with the entire community, individuals can help reduce pollution in Texas. Decreasing pollution levels can improve the lives of Texans and all Americans by reducing the number of pollution induced illnesses, such as asthma and cancer. Put simply, lowering pollution saves lives and increases economic productivity.

As a nation, we are moving in the right direction. Pollution levels have greatly decreased since the first Earth Day in 1970, and we continue to achieve greater pollution control. I will continue fighting to reduce pollution and to protect our natural resources while

building for a bright economic future. I believe that environmentalists and businesses can unite to develop strategies that can respect our health, ecosystem, and promote economic growth, and I look forward to achieving that goal.

TRIBUTE TO BUSTER AGLIANO

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Buster Agliano, an Ybor City icon, who recently lost his battle with cancer.

Buster was a well loved fixture in the Ybor community. His family-owned seafood market, S. Agliano and Sons Fish Co., remained open for business long after other shops had abandoned the Latin Quarter to make way for bars and nightclubs. The market, founded in 1915 by Buster's grandfather, had since turned its focus to wholesale business, but Buster always kept the front case stocked for his loyal customers, and he will be fondly remembered for offering his seafood on credit to those facing hard times. Buster could have sold his business for a hefty profit long ago, but Buster would never have sold out his customers and community to cash in for himself.

Buster's fish market was equally well known for the political debates that played out in the front of the shop. Everyone who was anyone in Tampa's political scene would join in Buster's informal gatherings to talk shop. In Tampa's political world, Buster was enormously respected as a source of advice and counsel, and as a result, local politicians always sought his support.

Buster was easy to love and easy to respect. His warmth always shone through his generosity, his love of family, his dedication to serving his community and his persistent positive attitude. I am honored to have called Buster my friend.

On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I extend my deepest sympathies to Buster's family. Buster's legacy in Ybor City and in our hearts will not be forgotten. He was one of a kind, and everyone who called Buster his or her friend is a better person for having known him.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY THOMAS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Gary Thomas on his recent retirement from the Daily Sentinel in Grand Junction, Colorado after nearly forty years of service as a press worker. His behind the scenes efforts have helped to ensure the high quality that Grand Junction residents have come to expect from their newspaper, and it is my privilege to pay tribute to his outstanding career today.

During his career, which began in the days when operating a press was truly dangerous work, Gary has seen many changes, including